

**● PRINTER RUSH ●**  
**(PTO ASSISTANCE)**

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[RUSH] MESSAGE: Specification pages jump from pages 3 to 5.  
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## Description of the Related Art

Pickup box lights have been in use for years. A conventional pickup box light is mounted to the upper rear portion of the cab of the pickup and has a manual control switch for users to operate that controls the light.

The main disadvantage of conventional pickup box lights is that they do not automatically operate to illuminate the interior of the pickup box during loading/unloading of cargo. Another disadvantage of conventional pickup box lights is that require the user to physically locate and manipulate a switch to turn the lights on. Another problem with conventional pickup box lights is that when a pickup box cover is utilized the light is blocked by the cover if the cover is closed.

Examples of patented devices which may be related to the present invention include U.S. Patent 5,495,400 to Currie; U.S. Patent 6,238,068 to Farmer, Jr.; U.S. Patent 6,431,717 to Anderson et al.; U.S. Patent 5,795,051 to Galanski; U.S. Patent 4,745,525 to Sheehy; U.S. Patent 5,258,893 to Finneyfrock; U.S. Patent 6,116,761 to Munsey; U.S. Patent 4,839,629 to Brown; U.S. Patent 4,818,006 to Arndt; U.S. Patent 6,000,821 to Beliakoff; and U.S. Patent 5,144,538 to Harris.

While these devices may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they address, they are not as suitable for automatically illuminating the interior of a pickup box upon opening of a tailgate. Conventional pickup box lights do not allow for automatic operation thereof based upon the opening of a tailgate.

In these respects, the tailgate controlled light system according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of automatically illuminating the interior of a pickup box upon opening of a tailgate.



## BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of pickup  
5 box lights now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new tailgate  
controlled light system construction wherein the same can be utilized for automatically  
illuminating the interior of a pickup box upon opening of a tailgate.

The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described  
10 subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new tailgate controlled light system that  
has many of the advantages of the pickup box lights mentioned heretofore and many  
novel features that result in a new tailgate controlled light system which is not  
anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art  
pickup box lights, either alone or in any combination thereof.

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To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a light unit attachable  
within a pickup box, a control switch electrically connected to the light unit and  
attachable within the opening of the pickup box, and an override switch electrically  
connected to the control switch and to the vehicle power supply. The control switch is  
20 positioned to be depressed by the tailgate when closed thereby terminating power to  
the light unit. When the tailgate is opened away from the control switch the light unit  
is activated with power. The override switch is used to terminate power to the light  
unit regardless of the position of the tailgate.

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There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the  
invention in order that the detailed description thereof may be better understood, and  
in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are  
additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and that will form  
the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.